

Labour East - Rules

Clause I - Name

This region of the Labour Party comprising the counties of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk will be known as the East of England Labour Party and described as Labour East.

The Labour East Regional Executive Committee hereinafter named 'REC'

Clause II - Objectives

Clause I.

Aims and values

1. National

A. The aims and values of the Labour Party as outlined in Chapter 1 Clause IV above shall apply to this REC.

2. Regional

A. To assist the NEC in promoting and building the Labour Party at all levels within the region. This REC will encourage all Party organisations to build and consolidate membership of the Labour Party, assist in the induction of new members and encourage their participation in the campaigning and policy making activities of the Labour Party.

B. To work with local Party units, the regional and local organising staff of the Party to secure the election of Labour representatives at all levels of the democratic process. Members of this REC will undertake such work in accordance with the plans formulated by the National Executive Committee.

C. To act as an Appeals and Disputes Panel to hear constitutional appeals, to receive reports of such appeals, and to carry out other constitutional duties as the NEC or the rules and constitution of the Party shall from time to time require.

D. To ensure the effective organisation of regional conferences. To develop an annual work programme for the REC to support regional engagement with all members, affiliates and stakeholders, including: registered supporters, affiliated supporters, women members, BAME members, disabled members, LGBT members, Young Labour and Labour Students within the region.

Clause III - Affiliated organisations

1. CLPs shall affiliate to the Regional Labour Party. Other organisations may affiliate to the regional labour party if they fall within the following categories:
 - a) Regional trade union affiliated to the Party nationally;
 - b) Socialist Societies affiliated to the party nationally;

- c) The Cooperative party;
 - d) Other organisations which in the opinion of the NEC are deemed eligible for affiliation
2. Each affiliated organisation must have members who are registered as electors within the region

Clause IV - Affiliation Fees

1. Affiliation fees and contributions payable to the REC shall be:
- a) Trade unions, socialist societies and co-operative organisations shall pay an affiliation fee of £100 per 1000 members or part thereof resident in the region.
 - b) CLPs shall pay an affiliation fee of £100 for the first 1000 individual members and £25 for each additional 1000 or part thereof for whom membership cards have been issued by the NEC by 31 December of the year preceding the annual meeting.
 - c) Local Labour Groups shall pay an affiliation fee of £10 annually for every elected Labour representative within their area of responsibility up to 10 members and a further £5 for every member thereafter.
 - d) Affiliation fees will be increased each year in line with inflation or by an amount deemed appropriate by the Regional Executive Committee.
2. All Affiliation Fees shall be paid no later than 31 December of the relevant year.

Clause VI – Regional Executive Committee

1. The Regional Executive Committee shall be elected in accordance with Clause VII. C.5 of these rules and shall comprise:

Party Organisation Section

CLP representatives elected by a ballot of CLP delegates at regional conference. The CLP section shall contain at least 50% women. The REC shall be responsible for ensuring that the election of CLP representatives reflects the geography and membership of the region. The Labour East REC has 15 spaces allocated for CLP delegates.

CLP Delegates shall be elected on a county basis according to the following formula. For the first 10 constituencies (or part thereof) each county shall be eligible to elect two representatives. For each additional 5 constituencies (or part thereof) a further delegate shall be elected.

This means:

Four to be elected from CLPs within Essex (**18 constituencies**) – at least two of these must be women

Three to be elected from CLPs within Hertfordshire (**11 constituencies**) – at least two must be women

Two to be elected from CLPs within Norfolk (**9 constituencies**) – at least one must be a woman

Two to be elected from CLPs within Suffolk (**7 constituencies**) – at least one must be a woman

Two to be elected from CLPs within Cambridgeshire (**7 constituencies**) – at least one must be a woman

Two to be elected from CLPs within Bedfordshire (**6 constituencies**) – at least one must be a woman

At least 8 women must be elected from the CLP section and the allocated places for women has been broken down as above to ensure this gender requirement is met.

Trade Union Section

Trade Union representatives elected by a trade union delegates at regional conference. The trade union section shall contain at least 50% women. The trade union section shall make up at least a third of the overall voting members of the REC.

Thirteen representatives to be elected by affiliated trade unions. The total number of delegates must contain at least 7 of these positions must be filled by women.

Young Labour

A Young Labour representative elected, initially at Regional Conference and then subsequently at an all members meeting of the Regional Young Labour Group. The Young Labour representative must be 26 years old or less. This position must be filled by a woman at least every other term.

Women's

A women's representative elected by the regional women's committee, or elected by delegates to regional conference if there is no active regional women's committee. This position must be filled by a woman.

BAME

A regional BAME representative elected by the regional BAME committee, or elected by delegates to regional conference if there is no active regional BAME committee.

Disability

A disability representative elected by the regional disability committee, or elected by delegates to regional conference if there is no active regional disability committee.

LGBT

An LGBT representative elected by the regional LGBT committee, or elected by delegates to regional conference if there is no active regional LGBT committee.

Co-operative Party

One Co-op representative nominated by the Co-op party. This position has to be filled by a woman at least once every other term.

Socialist Societies

One representative to be elected by affiliated socialist societies

Local Government

Two representatives elected by the Association of Labour Councillors; at least one of whom must be a woman.

Parliamentary Representation

One representative to be nominated by the Eastern group of the PLP/EPLP. All East of England members of the PLP shall be invited to attend Regional Executive Committee meetings, but only the designated representative (to be decided by the East of England members of the PLP) shall be entitled to vote at the meeting.

The parliamentary representative must be a women at least every other term.

Ex-Officio

Ex-officio members of this REC, without voting rights, shall be:

- a. The constituency and regionally elected East of England NPF representatives
- b. A representative of Police and Crime Commissioners in the region where this applies
- c. The Regional Director
- d. The Chair of the regional CAC

2. Officers

- a) The following officers of the Regional Party shall be elected at Regional Conference: Chair, two Vice Chairs. At least one of the Vice Chairs shall be women. In order to stand for election to these positions, those members successfully elected to the board will have from the declaration of results until 8pm to nominate themselves. The officers' roles shall be as described in guidelines approved by the Regional Executive Committee from time to time.
- b) At least 1 officer position shall be from an affiliated organisation and one from the CLP section
- c) The Secretary and Treasurer shall be the Regional Director of the East of England appointed by the NEC. S/he shall also be an officer.

3. Meetings

Meetings of the Regional Executive Committee shall be held at least once a quarter. Quorum for business meetings of the REC shall be 33 per cent rounded up to the nearest number of those members entitled to vote in attendance.

4. The Regional Executive Committee will undertake appeals against the withdrawal of the Labour whip by a Labour group and appeals against exclusion from the panel of local government candidates. The Regional Executive Committee will keep in place an appeals panel.

Clause VII – Regional Conference

1. The regional conference will take place annually to deal with Party business at a timing determined by the REC. The REC will be elected as outlined in Clause V in alternate years.
2. There shall be a Regional Conference Arrangements Committee of no fewer than three members, which will set the priorities for the conference and oversee the organisation of the conference.
 - A. Where no Regional Conference Arrangements Committee is currently established, the Regional Conference Arrangements Committee shall be elected by and from the membership of the Regional Executive Committee.
 - B. Thereafter, the Regional Conference Arrangements Committee shall be elected by delegates to the Regional Conference.
3. Delegations shall be established on a basis set by the REC and fulfil the following criteria:
 - A. The voting weights of CLPs and affiliates to the conference should mirror Annual Conference.
 - B. The number of delegates permitted should be relative to the size of the nominating Party unit or organisation.
 - C. Delegations should be at least 50% women.
 - D. Relevant measures should be taken to ensure that the region's ethnic diversity is represented.
4. A delegation fee will be charged at an amount decided by the REC. Such fees should be paid before credentials are issued.
5. The duties of the Regional Conference Arrangements Committee shall be:

- A. To draw up the agenda of regional conference ensuring that time is provided to enable debate and allow for any policy making process that is stipulated for the conference by the NEC or Annual Conference.
- B. To publish a timetable for the submission of motions from members and affiliates.

6. Qualification of delegates

- A. Every delegate must be an individual and fully paid-up member of the Party with at least 6 months continuous membership.
- B. Delegates may only attend the regional conference if their appointing organisation's REC affiliation and delegate fee are up to date.
- C. Delegates must be bona-fide members of the organisation appointing them and resident within the region except that:
 - i. Organisations can be represented by paid permanent officials.
 - ii. CLPs may be represented by their Member of Parliament (provided they are members of the Parliamentary Labour Party) or their NEC endorsed Parliamentary candidate.
 - iii. No delegate shall act for more than one organisation.

7. Ex-officio members of the Regional Conference are as follows and may attend on payment of the appropriate fee set by the REC:

- A. Members of the NEC.
- B. Members of the REC.
- C. Members of the regional group of the PLP.
- D. Local government group leaders and Executive Mayors within the region.
- E. NEC endorsed prospective Parliamentary candidates.
- F. Labour City Region/Metro Mayor(s); or candidates for those positions once endorsed by the NEC.
- G. Chairs and Secretaries of LCFs.
- H. Regional NPF representatives.
- I. The General Secretary.
- J. The Regional Director.
- K. Delegates from any regional recognised equality committee's/groups.

8. Visitors, who may be members or Affiliated Supporters, on payment of a fee set by the REC and subject to the limitations of the venue, will be eligible to attend Regional Conference without speaking or voting rights.
9. Procedure at Regional Conference shall as far as practicable be informed by the Standing Orders agreed at the last session of Annual Conference.

1. Conference timetable

- A. The timetable for Labour East Regional Conference (known as “Regional Conference”) shall be drawn up by the Conference Arrangements Committee in line with the general principles outlined in Chapter 3, Clause III.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book.
- B. The REC may submit any items of business to Regional Conference in line with its responsibilities.

2. Motions

A. Notice of motions

Motions may be submitted by affiliated organisations, Labour Groups, CLPs, regional equalities committee’s (where applicable) in line with the general procedures outlined in Chapter 3, Clause III.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book (as interpreted by the Regional CAC).

Motions shall be limited to one per eligible organisation.

B. Emergency motions

- i. The Conference Arrangements Committee shall set a deadline for the receipt of emergency motions. Emergency motions must be submitted in writing by the deadline specified by the Conference Arrangements Committee.
- ii. The Conference Arrangements Committee shall only timetable an emergency motion for debate if it meets the following conditions:
 - i. has arisen after the closing date for motions; and
 - ii. be a matter of urgent and immediate importance to the discussion by the whole Labour Party at Regional Conference.
- iii. The Conference Arrangements Committee shall inform organisations whose emergency motions do not meet the criteria above as soon as practicable, and will provide an opportunity for such organisations to make further representations.

C. Compositing

- i. Delegates from organisations whose motion’s topic has been successful in the priorities ballot shall be invited to a compositing meeting. No more than two delegates from any one organisation may attend a compositing meeting. Members of the Conference Arrangements Committee, members of the REC, and members of the Labour Party regional/national team shall also be eligible

to attend. Such meetings shall be chaired by a member of the Conference Arrangements Committee.

- ii. Only words from the motions may be used to form a composite. No new words can be introduced although some text may be omitted.
- iii. The wording from motions from organisations who do not have delegates in attendance cannot be used unless specific arrangements have been made with the Conference Arrangements Committee prior to the meeting, and the Chair made aware of them.
- iv. Delegates in attendance who agree the final wording, shall agree a mover and a seconder who will speak to conference during the relevant debate. All composite motions must be signed by the mover, seconder, and Chair of the meeting, and submitted to the Conference Arrangements Committee.
- v. The Conference Arrangements Committee shall timetable the composited motions, where practicable this shall be within the most relevant policy debate.

D. Motions to reference back

- i. Motions to reference back part of a document should be raised in advance in accordance with any deadline and procedure notified by the Conference Arrangements Committee. The Conference Arrangements Committee will also consider references back that arise during the course of Conference.

3. Elections for Regional Executive Committee

For the purpose of nomination and election the Regional Executive Committee shall be divided into sections. The REC shall be elected at the Annual Regional Conference every other year.

Each CLP may make as many nominations to the Party Organisation section of the Regional Executive Committee as there are vacancies, and one nomination to the Young Labour section, BAME, LGBT and Women's section from among its appointed delegates to the Regional Conference.

Each affiliated Trade Union may make two nominations at least one of which shall be a woman from among its appointed delegates for its appropriate section of the Regional Executive Committee. Each Socialist Society may make one nomination from among its appointed delegates for its appropriate section of the Regional Executive Committee.

The Co-op party may make one nomination from among its delegates for the Regional Executive Committee.

The members of each section shall be elected by ballot at the annual conference by the respective organisations in that section as set out in Clause VII(8). The Party Organisation section and Trade Union sections combined must be at least 50% women – the formula for

achieving this is set out in the relevant sections above. All nominees must be delegates to the annual regional conference and nominated by the CLP in which they reside.

4. Chair

A. Appointment of Chair

- i. The CAC shall appoint a panel of chairs from among its membership for each session of Regional Conference.

B. Chair's ruling

- i. Any breach of or question to the rules or standing orders may be raised by a delegate with a point of order. The Chair's ruling on any point arising from the rules or standing orders is final unless challenged by not less than four delegates; such a challenge shall be put to Conference without discussion and shall only be carried with the support of two thirds of Regional Conference.

5. Procedure in debate

A. Time limits for speakers

- i. Movers of reports and motions will be allowed three minutes, with other speakers from the floor allowed two minutes. Those who wish to move a reference back will be allowed to speak for one minute. The Conference Arrangements Committee will determine appropriate time limits for other speakers and will allow as many other delegates to speak as possible.
- ii. Time limits shall be strictly enforced, and the Chair shall have the right to end any delegate's speech should the time limit have been exceeded.

B. Discussion on motion

- i. Any relevant composite motion(s) will be moved and seconded by the delegates agreed at the compositing meeting.
- ii. If there is a related emergency motion then it will be moved and seconded.
- iii. Only fully accredited delegates appointed in accordance with the party rules are entitled to move motions on behalf of their organisations.
- iv. The mover of a motion may exercise their right to withdraw a motion or remit it to the appropriate Labour Party committee at any time prior to the commencement of a vote.

C. Point of order

- i. Any delegate may raise a legitimate point of order during a debate. Any such point of order shall be heard at the conclusion of the current speech.
- ii. The Chair shall retain the power to rule what is and is not a legitimate point of order, and to instruct a delegate to end an illegitimate point of order.

- iii. A point of order will be ruled illegitimate if it does not immediately and directly identify which of these standing orders is in question.

D. Ending debate

- i. Debates shall be ended by the Chair in line with the timetable published by the Conference Arrangements Committee.
- ii. The Chair shall indicate when the last speaker is to be called.

E. General

- i. All speakers shall be accredited delegates or ex officio members of Regional conference except where the Conference Arrangements Committee determines otherwise.
- ii. The Chair shall take all steps within their power to ensure that speakers are a fair representation of Regional Conference, and that there shall be no discrimination on the grounds of protected personal characteristics.
- iii. Each delegate or ex officio member of Party conference may speak only once in any given session of Regional Conference subject to Chair's discretion.

6. Voting and ballots

A. General

- i. Voting at Regional Conference shall take place in line with the principles outlined in Chapter 3, Clause III.3 of the Labour Party Rule Book.

B. Voting on resolutions

- i. Voting on resolutions, reports, proposals and references back shall be by show of hands. Where a show of hands is unclear a card vote can be called at the discretion of the Chair. A card vote is intended to resolve a position where a show of hands is not decisive, to establish the exact breakdown of votes when the majority is of procedural significance (eg two-thirds required) or on a challenge to the Chair.

7. The Conference Arrangements Committee

A. The role of the Conference Arrangements Committee

- i. The Conference Arrangements Committee shall have the responsibilities in line with those outlined in Chapter 3, Clause II.2 of the Labour Party Rule Book.

B. The Conference Arrangements Committee Report

- i. The Conference Arrangements Committee Report shall set out the timetable for Annual Conference. Delegates may speak from the floor for up to one

minute on the Conference Arrangements Committee Report, prior to a vote being taken.

- ii. Should conference vote not to accept the Conference Arrangements Committee Report, the Chair of the Conference Arrangements Committee shall report back to the Conference Arrangements Committee, and a new Report will be prepared. In such circumstances, the Chair of Annual Conference shall move that Conference continues on the timetable published, up until a revised Report is produced.
- iii. Should the motion on continuing with the timetable published fall, Conference will be suspended up until a revised report is published.

8. Suspension of standing orders

A. Procedural motion to suspend a standing order

- i. Any motion to suspend standing orders may only be moved on behalf of the REC. Any such motion to suspend standing orders must specify which standing order is proposed to be suspended.